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Turning the lens on police

Artists examine what it means to have 'so little trust' in the authorities
metroNEWS

Pushing Zika prevention

HEALTH

The province confirms first case of virus



Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

Health officials in Nova Scotia are pushing the prevention message after the province identified its first confirmed case of Zika virus.

"It's important for people to know ... how to protect themselves and avoid becoming infected with Zika virus and to know the implications if they do get ill while they're on a tropical holiday," deputy chief medical officer of health Dr. Frank Atherton told media on Monday.

A female traveller in her 30s acquired the virus while visiting a country affected by the outbreak. She was not hospitalized

and has since recovered.

"Zika is an important disease to think about really because of the links that have become clear over the last couple of years between Zika-virus infection and potential harm to unborn babies," Atherton said.

For that reason, the number of people who need to be tested for Zika is quite small, he added.

In most cases, it's a self-limiting illness people recover from. Women who are pregnant are advised not to visit Zika virus-affected countries and to avoid becoming pregnant within two months of being in an affected country.

The virus has been transmitted through sexual activity from men to women.

The department of health and wellness advised that the risk of Zika-infected mosquitoes in Nova Scotia is very low as these insects are unable to survive in our climate.



EMERGENCY IN ALBERTA | Wildfire forces evacuation of camps north of Fort Mac | metroNEWS



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Wanted: Regional police chief calls for new station

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Central location would improve effectiveness, says Blais



Jeremy Mutton
For Metro | Halifax

The head of Halifax Regional Police wants work on a new headquarters to start now, saying their current space on Gottingen Street doesn't cut it for the municipality's needs.

The proposed central police station would house both Halifax Regional Police and Halifax RCMP by 2023, HRP Chief Jean-Michel Blais said Monday during the city's Board of Police Commissioners meeting.

The new station would replace the current system, which has the regional police force's 700 staff members spread out in buildings across the municipality.

While Blais said the station wouldn't be located in a business park, he was vague on where it could be built.

"We're not at that point yet,"



A Halifax Regional Police officer has his weapon drawn responding to a weapons complaint in Burnside. The police force is searching for a location for its new head office, which would ideally be completed by 2023 and house both the RCMP and HRP. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Blais said.

Most details on the proposed station were fuzzy as of Monday.

Halifax Regional Municipality projects manager Terry Gallagher estimated the project would cost \$8 million, based on other police force projects across Canada.

The building would have to be at least 160,000 square-feet and close to public transit routes, ac-

"The current building is not conducive to the needs of HRP or the RCMP."

Jean-Michel Blais

cording to the report released at Monday's meeting.

"The key point here is that the current building is not conducive to the needs of HRP or the RCMP," Blais said, adding that "a single building would improve efficiency."

The chief identified several problems with the current headquarters, from no elevator, to

inadequate forensic facilities, to even climate control.

"There are times in the summer when we are roasting and times in the winter when we are freezing," Blais said.

But the biggest issue is with the jail cells, which don't meet provincial code. Upgrading those cells would cost \$100,000 and be less cost-effective, Blais said.

The move would change policing in Halifax, he promised, adding it could shut the doors on regional police's Bedford and Dartmouth locations.

But commissioners seemed skeptical Monday of Halifax regional council trying to restructure the city's police service.

Council put forward the motion for a feasibility study, and business case for the police plan.

"It's a little more than bricks and mortar," Coun. Steve Craig warned Monday. "I'm just wondering if we're missing an opportunity to do better."

Coun. Steve Adams said he felt the proposal was brought forward as "an information piece," rather than truly seeking input from municipal representatives.

"It goes back to governance — why are we here?" he asked. "This governance issue; it has to be resolved."

STATISTICS

Crime up in first quarter



Kristen Lipscombe
Metro | Halifax

Crime jumped almost 10 per cent across Halifax Regional Municipality when comparing the first three months of this year to the same time frame last year, police said Monday.

Halifax Regional Police and Halifax RCMP released their combined first quarter crime stats following Monday's Board of Police Commissioners meeting. The numbers indicate criminal code offences increased 9.82 per cent overall. Violent crime, however, dropped 8.37 per cent, police said.

The number of homicides remained exactly the same, with four reported in the first three months of 2015 and 2016. Because the stats reflect only the first quarter, they do not include the rash of homicides that shocked the city in April.

"We are continuing to stay the course with our crime reduction strategy to address any violent crime," a Halifax Regional Police news release said Monday in response to the stats. "We will continue to focus on identifying areas with higher rates of crime," also called "hot spots," the release said.

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Lindsay Dobbin, from left, Lukas Pearse, Tamar Dina and Corey Bowles laugh at a photo shoot in the edit suite at the Centre for Art Tapes on Monday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

HISTORY

Evidence found of old fort

Nova Scotia archeologists say they may have unearthed fresh evidence of a long-sought-after 18th century British fortress under a lawn in the historic coastal city of Lunenburg.

Halifax professor Henry Cary said historic records set off the hunt for a star-shaped or pentagonal fort that was marked on a 1753 plan of Lunenburg.

"It was one of the first defences built to defend the town in 1753 when the foreign Protestants were landed as part of the British (effort) to create a foothold in Nova Scotia," Cary, adjunct professor at Saint Mary's University, said.

The team credits a geophysical survey that spotted magnetic anomalies under the grass outside the Lunenburg Academy. Teams of continuing education archaeology students started digging over the weekend based on the survey, and Cary said they uncovered a drain.

"We knew it was in the general area and we had done some geophysical survey of the property in 2013-14 and so we were working off the geophysical anomalies," said Cary.

"One very minor anomaly turned out to be a nice stone drain ... a cobblestone drain that runs north-south."

The archeologist said the drain confirms the usefulness of the geophysical surveying method. The technology introduced a magnetic signal into the earth and then used that signal to calculate the variations.

Cary said the variations detected can help archeologists spot features like ditches, drains or foundations that are the result of human actions.

He said it's too soon to say with certainty the drain is part of a fortress structure, but adds it appears to be very similar to other examples from other military sites in Nova Scotia, like the Halifax Citadel or Fort Edward. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police blindspots tackled

ART

Aim is to get people talking about sexual assault, race



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

Conversations on how police handle sexual assault and race have exploded since the Black Lives Matter movement and Jian Ghomeshi case, inspiring a group of Halifax artists to examine what it means to have "so little trust" in the authorities.

Oversight, a mixed-media interactive video and audio installation at the Bus Stop Theatre, was put together by The Centre For Art Tapes' (CFAT) Media Fusion collective over the past few months.

Tamar Dina, one of the artists in the collective alongside Corey Bowles, Lukas Pearse, and Lindsay Dobbin, said Monday they were selected by CFAT to create something relevant to the broader Halifax community.

These high-profile cases have been on people's minds and show a "failure of the system all the way through," Dina said.

"Women don't need to talk to each other; (they) unanimously agree the police are not

to be trusted when it comes to violence against women; most women don't go to the police. Black people ... agree the police are not to be trusted. But that's the level of conversation we're at right now," Dina said.

"We're hoping ... we can go further with that and look at the two glaring misbehaviours of police at the same time in a room together with people, and then ask them to respond and take their citizenship seriously."

Groups of six to eight people at a time will go into the installation and be guided through a fictional narrative about interacting with police as a "fly on the wall," maybe seeing the actual incident or the after-

math, Bowles said.

Police exchanges are usually private, so art has the unique ability to pull the audience into a situation they wouldn't see unless they experienced it themselves, Dina said.

After the installation, visitors return to the lobby and become part of the project by reflecting on what they saw through the live streaming

radio program, Witness Radio, Dobbin said.

People in the same group will likely hear different things depending on where they're standing or where their attention is, Dina said, which is part of what's true to an investigation and in many ways creates empathy with police.

Pearse said there will certainly be different interpretations of the project, which should help foster real discussion.

Until now the conversation has mostly revolved around what happens to victims, Dina said, but should include the citizen's relationship to police "in the context of a public consciousness."

WHEN & WHERE

Oversight begins at 7 p.m. on Wednesday at The Bus Stop Theatre on Gottingen Street. Free admission.

GARDENS

Colourful mural gets help from students



Jeremy Mutton
For Metro | Halifax

A new art piece is bringing the colours of the Public Gardens to Spring Garden Road, and it has more than 200 collaborators.

The 16-foot mural was painted by local artist Kyle Jackson, but with a little help from Sacred Heart School.

"All the children at the school participated, including all the

faculty and a lot of alumni came," said Barbara Martell, spokeswoman for Sacred Heart on Monday afternoon.

The Spring Garden Area Business Association and Sacred Heart teamed up to install the community mural Monday on Dresden Row, near Jennifer's of Nova Scotia.

"Hopefully it will beautify this area from here on in," Martell said.

The mural depicts an aerial

"I've been painting like this for six or seven years."

Kyle Jackson

view of the Public Gardens, with Sacred Heart and Victoria Park in the background.

"This is my signature style, the brightly-coloured, wide

panorama," Jackson said.

After two years of planning and location changes, teachers and students braved the rain and marched the mural from the school to Dresden Row.

School uniforms were soaked through but the students had wide smiles on their faces as they posed for pictures with their artwork.

"The spirit is high and we're loving every minute of it," Martell said.



Students from Sacred Heart put up the new mural in the rain on Monday morning. JEFF HARPER/METRO

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DRUG ABUSE

Police ask citizens to clean out medicine cabinets

When it comes to spring cleaning, provincial police say that should include your medicine cabinets.

Nova Scotia RCMP are supporting the fourth annual National Prescription Drug Drop-off Day this Saturday, with more than 30 locations across the province available to safely discard old medication.

"These sites help ensure that unused and expired medications do not fall into the wrong hands, whether they be criminals or

victims," an RCMP news release issued Monday said.

National Prescription Drug

Prescription drug abuse is an ongoing problem throughout Nova Scotia and across Canada.

Chief Peter McIsaac

Drop-off Day is an initiative of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and Public Safety Canada.

"Prescription drug abuse is an ongoing problem throughout Nova Scotia and across Canada," Nova Scotia representative Chief Peter McIsaac said in the release. "This is a chance for citizens to safely dispose of any prescription drugs they no longer need or use."

Visit the Nova Scotia RCMP website for a list of drop-off locations. METRO HALIFAX

GREEN SPACES

Companies charged with cutting trees at popular park

Three companies are facing charges for allegedly cutting and damaging trees in a popular Halifax park.

The provincial Environment Department says the charges come after an investigation into tree cutting at Long Lake Provincial Park last November.

Dexter Construction Co. Ltd., Resourcetec Inc. and Scott and

Stewart Forestry Consultants Ltd. have all been charged with violating the Crown Lands Act.

The charges relate to cutting and damaging timber on Crown lands without permission.

The department says penalties can include fines, land remediation and the recovery of double the market value for any wood cut. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The area in hectares of Long Lake Provincial Park encompassing three lakes. The alleged cutting involves 3.8 hectares.



Prince Edward Island Premier Wade MacLauchlan, Nova Scotia Premier Stephen McNeil, Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Dwight Ball and New Brunswick Premier Brian Gallant, left to right, share a laugh as they attend a news conference Monday in Annapolis Royal.

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Aging population worries premiers

HEALTH CARE

Current per capita formula doesn't work, McNeil says

Atlantic Canada's premiers are calling anew for a health accord with the federal government that reflects the realities of the region's aging population and shrinking workforce.

Nova Scotia Premier Stephen

McNeil says it's clear that the current per capita formula doesn't work for the Atlantic region.

McNeil says he would like to see any new formula reflect funding for chronic disease management for the elderly, which is a growing cost of health care in the region.

New Brunswick Premier Brian Gallant says Ottawa needs to realize the region has a number of challenges in delivering health care, including the fact that it's more rural and

has higher rates of cancer due to its older population.

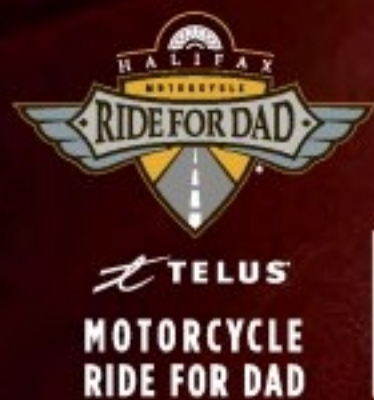
Gallant says his province would like to see those problems addressed either through the federal health transfer or some sort of parallel top-up program aimed at seniors' care.

During their annual meeting in Annapolis Royal, N.S., the four Atlantic premiers also announced a joint procurement of anaesthesia and ultrasound equipment in order to save \$6.1 million over three years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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DARTMOUTH

Driver flees police, hits tree, squad car



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

A Dartmouth teen is facing charges after he allegedly drove an SUV into a tree and backed repeatedly into a police car.

Just after 1 a.m. on Saturday, Halifax Regional Police attempted to stop a speeding SUV driving without its headlights and weaving back and forth on the road in Dartmouth, according to a release.

An officer stopped the SUV off Highway 111 going onto Woodland Avenue, but as they

approached the vehicle it sped off toward Victoria Road. The SUV made a right-hand turn onto Victoria Road but was going too fast and drove up onto the lawn of a church and hit a tree.

The officer pulled in behind the SUV with their car's emergency lights activated. The SUV driver backed into the police car, pulled forward again hitting the tree and then reversed again hitting the police car. The police officer pulled his squad car ahead further, preventing the SUV from moving.

The driver of the SUV, a 17-year-old male, was arrested at the scene.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Province likely overstepping, councillor says



Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

The municipal councillor for Preston-Chezzetcook-Eastern Shore is concerned the province may be overstepping its boundaries if it passes a bill dealing with the Otter Lake landfill.

Halifax regional council is holding a special meeting Wednesday at 1 p.m. to discuss the

province's proposed Bill 176, introduced by Timberlea-Prospect MLA Iain Rankin.

"I was not advised of it being introduced and not even informed of what the parameters were until after the fact," David Hendsbee told Metro.

"This (special meeting) all came about when we found out that the third reading of this bill was on Friday. That's when the s— hit the fan."

Hendsbee said correspondence began flying and many felt it was important for council to discuss the possible municipal ramifications of the province's proposed bill before it went any further.

"I think (with) this private member's bill, the government may be exceeding its realm of responsibility when it comes to solid waste management," he said. "They're supposed to only oversee environmental aspects."

Hendsbee said he thought council had long resolved the issue of the facility's footprint and the number and height of landfill cells. He believes capping the height of the facility lower than previously agreed will "handcuff" the municipality and force it into finding another landfill site.

"My fear is the only available vacant land within the muni-

cipality is going to be on the eastern shore because there's nothing left elsewhere, unless the province allows us to export our garbage to another municipality," he said.

The province was unable to provide Metro with any specific details by press time.



The Otter Lake landfill. METRO

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Wildfire threatens a dozen work camps

ALBERTA

Evacuation described as a 'precautionary' measure

A harsh reminder of the perils still at play in the Alberta wildfires emerged Monday afternoon as employees at work camps north of Fort McMurray were moved out as part of a precautionary evacuation.

High winds spurred the quickly spreading wildfire as tinder-dry conditions persist in the region.

"Heavy smoke ... does make it unsafe to fly in some spots, but we are able to still work the flanks and hope to pinch it off," said Alberta wildfire manager Chad Morrison.

"When you have this kind of extreme fire behaviour it doesn't matter what tankers you put in front of it, it doesn't



A fireball is seen as a wildfire rips through the forest by Highway 63, south of Fort McMurray, Alta on May 7, 2016. THE CANADIAN PRESS

matter how many helicopters. Mother Nature is going to want to continue to move that fire forward."

The fire itself was about 20 kilometres away from the work camps as of Monday evening, but non-essential personnel left while others stayed to conduct work on the plant and engage

in firefighting.

There are about 4,000 workers at 12 camps in the area, including many at Suncor and Syncrude.

Officials said another 500 to 600 people in four small camps along Aostra Road were under a mandatory evacuation.

Scott Long of the Alberta Man-

agement Agency said there was no panic and the evacuations were being done in an orderly manner.

"We're very hopeful that we'll be able to hold the line, but if not, we want to make sure that people's lives are taken care of."

"The big factor obviously for the folks on site is that they will see very, very, heavy, dark smoke," said Morrison.

The Rural Municipality of Wood Buffalo said the fire was moving 30 to 40 metres per minute and was expected to burn six kilometres in two hours.

"This controlled, precautionary evacuation is an example why it is not safe to be in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo at this time," the municipality said late Monday.

"The facilities are not at risk," said Sneh Seetal of Suncor Energy. "However, we felt it was important to take these steps in the interest of putting people first." THE CANADIAN PRESS

SPACE STATION

This mission 'makes Canada much bigger'

Quebec engineer and doctor David Saint-Jacques says he's not entirely sure why he was chosen to become the next Canadian to work aboard the International Space Station — but he'll gladly accept the mission.

"They had to pick one of us," Saint-Jacques said when asked why he believed he was chosen over his co-astronaut-in-training Jeremy Hansen.

"This is the first one and I'm looking forward for (Hansen) getting the next shot."

Saint-Jacques, 46, is scheduled to travel to space aboard the Rus-

sian Soyuz rocket for a six-month mission in November 2018.

"A mission like this makes Canada much bigger," Saint-Jacques told a group of schoolchildren gathered Monday at an Ottawa museum, where Minister of Science and Innovation Navdeep Bains announced the assignment.

Training for Saint-Jacques, who is a medical, engineering and astrophysics specialist, begins this summer in Canada, Russia, Japan and the United States.

"I stand on the shoulders of giants," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EQUALITY

Government to table new transgender bill

Legislation to extend human-rights protections to transgender Canadians will be tabled in the Commons on Tuesday, says Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Trudeau confirmed the news in Montreal on Monday as he received an award named after

Laurent McCutcheon, a long-time gay-rights activist.

Tuesday happens to be International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

"We must continue to demand true equality," Trudeau said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Children hold placards as migrants and refugees take part in a peaceful protest at a refugee camp near the northern Greek border of Idomeni on Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UN fund prioritizes refugee education

SCHOOL

New program aims to reach many of 20M displaced kids

Former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown on Monday announced the creation of the United Nations' first humanitarian fund for the education of refugee children.

Acting in his role as UN special envoy for global education, Brown said the fund hopes to reach many of the estimated 20 million school-age refugees and displaced persons around the globe who are being denied

an education as part of "the largest population of displaced girls and boys since 1945."

Brown said the number of children who are missing out on schooling due to displacement is becoming a global crisis that will haunt the world for generations.

"When we ask ourselves what breaks the lives of once thriving young children, it's not just the Mediterranean wave that submerges the life vest and it's not just the food convoy that does not arrive in Syria, it's also the absence of hope — the soul-crushing certainty that there is nothing to plan or prepare for, not even a place in school," Brown said, speaking by telephone to reporters at the UN.

The initiative, entitled "Education Cannot Wait," will be formally launched at next week's World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul and seeks to raise \$3.85 billion from some 100 donors in the public and private sectors over the next five years.

The initiative, which has been in the works for three years, was inspired by the refugee crisis in Syria, but funds will be available for refugees around the globe.

Brown said that the vast majority of people fleeing the war in Syria remain in the region, and if parents believed their children could get an education there, they would be more likely to stay in place, rather than undertake the risky passage to Europe. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Missouri doctors deliver baby after mother dies

Missouri doctors managed to deliver a baby whose mother was killed in a crash on her way to give birth. Sarah Iler and the baby's father, Matt Rider, were headed to a hospital in Poplar Bluff when his SUV was struck by a tractor trailer, according to reports. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISS makes 100,000th orbit

It's 100,000 laps around Earth and counting for the International Space Station. NASA said these 100,000 orbits are akin to travelling more than 2.6 billion miles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HEALTH

Penis transplant is a first for U.S.

A cancer patient has received the first penis transplant in the United States, a Boston hospital said Monday.

Massachusetts General Hospital has confirmed that Thomas Manning received the transplanted penis in a 15-hour procedure last week.

The New York Times first reported the transplant Monday.

Dr. Curtis Cetrulo, who helped lead the surgical team, tells the newspaper that normal urination should be possible for the 64-year-old Manning in a few weeks, with



Thomas Manning GETTY IMAGES

sexual function possible in weeks to months.

The Times reports most of Manning's penis was removed during his battle with penile cancer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Trucking needs new blood

EMPLOYMENT

Industry struggling to attract young workforce

After 40 years as a truck driver, Jack Fielding says it's easier to name the places in North America where he hasn't been than the ones he has.

And after driving five million kilometres, the 57-year-old still enjoys the freedom of the road.

But as Fielding and thousands like him near retirement age, the industry is struggling to recruit young people who share his enthusiasm for the job.

This means the industry is facing a looming labour shortage that could reach 48,000 drivers by 2024, according to the Canadian Trucking Alliance.

The average age of a truck driver is over 47 and almost 30 per cent of the driving force is 55 or over, which makes it one of the oldest workforces in Canada, according to the organization's president.

"Tens of thousands of them are nearing retirement and



Truck driver Nadine Gauthier is working on behalf of Quebec's trucking association to encourage more women and girls to consider careers as truck drivers. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

we're not getting anywhere near our commensurate share of new drivers into the business," says David Bradley.

There are multiple reasons for the looming shortage, but many believe the lifestyle simply isn't attractive to a younger generation.

Fielding, for example, usually works 10-14 days straight, with three days off between

trips. Schedules are not set in advance, and drivers often work 12 hours or more a day.

"You're not home with your friends on Friday nights having parties," he says. "If you have a family you might miss out on birthdays and things like that."

Bradley says this makes it harder to attract younger people or those with families, who tend to place a higher

emphasis on work-life balance than older generations. It may also explain why the industry struggles to recruit women, who make up only about four to six per cent of the driving population.

Nadine Gauthier, who spent six years driving shipping containers around the Montreal area, is trying to change that.

The 43-year old, now a super-

visor for Simard Transport, also works on behalf of Quebec's trucking association to convince girls and women that trucking isn't just a "man's world."

She says that while the first women "pioneers" may have been given a hard time, the industry has become very welcoming to women.

The average salary for a truck driver was listed as \$40,728 in 2011, although Bradley says long-haul truck drivers can easily make \$70-80,000 a year.

However, they're often paid by the mile, which means their income can fluctuate based on unexpected delays or traffic. They also tend to work longer hours than the rest of the population.

It's also difficult to hire immigrants, except under the Temporary Foreign Worker program, since truck driving is not considered a skilled occupation and drivers therefore aren't eligible for most federal economic immigration programs.

Bradley believes long-term solutions are needed to ensure people who enter the profession stay there, instead of viewing it as a stop-gap between jobs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RETAIL

Amazon to expand offerings

Amazon is planning to expand the store-brand items it sells to new categories including food and household products, according to a report by The Wall Street Journal.

The new products could include nuts and spices and other consumer goods such as diapers.

The Wall Street Journal report cites unnamed people familiar with the matter. Amazon.com Inc. declined to comment.

Amazon already sells an array of private-label products, or products designed by a third-party manufacturer and sold under a retailer's name — usually cheaper than name-brand products — but food would be a new category.

It has been making a push into the grocery aisle, however. It offers Prime Fresh, a \$299 annual grocery delivery service, in several cities on the West and East Coasts. Currently, the Amazon Basics line includes everything from patio furniture to office products. It also sells clothes under its labels Lark & Ro and Franklin & Freeman.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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ON THE BATHROOM-LAW CONTROVERSY

The “protect our little girls” argument allows some to equate their transgender neighbours with pedophiles, part of a larger narrative that trans people are to be feared.

Pity all the little boys in America.

Nobody, it seems, cares for them.

The raging debate over where transgender people get to go to the bathroom has made that fact, among others, abundantly clear.

Judging by the U.S. media fervour, it seems every reporter has been tasked with one goal: getting comment on the Obama administration's directive last week that all schools accommodate transgender students, including letting them use the bathrooms where they feel comfortable.

And for every microphone, there's been a call to save all the helpless girls of America. Take Ted Cruz's comments last month: “Have we gone stark raving nuts? Strangers shouldn't be alone in bathrooms with little girls.”

Or this, from pastor Ron Baity in North Carolina, the state being sued by the federal government for a law that forces trans people to use the loo that coincides with the sex on their birth certificate: “He could be there to look at the anatomy of the opposite sex,” Baity said, imagining a predator masquerading as transgender. “He could be there to bring damage to a young girl.”

Like everyone else fueling the uproar, he didn't bother to fear for the sexual safety of little boys. There

are two reasons for this. The first is the sexist, and still widespread, idea that females are weaker and in need of more protection. The second is that people like Baity are simply anti-trans and are using their condescending concern for girls' welfare as cover.

pedophiles, part of a larger narrative that transgender people are to be feared. During On Point, a national radio call-in show last week, one man told the story of a transgender woman using a woman's changeroom this way: “They were just petrified, all ages, this big hairy



THE CANADIAN APPROACH Prime Minister Justin Trudeau listens as he is presented with the 2016 Laurent McCutcheon Award for his commitment to fighting homophobia and transphobia, in Montreal on Monday. Trudeau later announced he would table legislation today aimed at protecting transgender rights. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

“What gets socially coded as fear is often just masked transphobia,” Sheila Cavanagh, professor of gender and sexuality studies at York University, told the New Yorker this week. “People know that it's less acceptable to be transphobic than it is to say, ‘I worry about the safety of my daughter.’” She also called the fear of fake transgender predators “far-fetched” and without evidence. Far better documented, she added, is discrimination against transgender people trying to use a restroom.

The “protect our little girls” argument also allows some to equate their transgender neighbours with

guy walking around as if he had every right to do so.”

We shouldn't be surprised that bathrooms are causing all this stir. They are a single point of public nudity in a culture that is terrified of its own genitalia and sexuality. And they have a history of being used for sexual fear-mongering, including in the racially segregated U.S. South, as Diane Ravitch noted in the Huffington Post.

Then, women's sexual vulnerability was invoked as cover for race-baiting. Now, for gender-baiting.

In keeping with the cliché, the deregulation of bathroom spaces in Canada has been quieter. The

Vancouver School Board, the Toronto School Board, and the entire province of Alberta have all moved to allow transgender students to exercise their washroom choice, and some are adding more gender-neutral bathrooms. Many universities have similar policies. And while there has been some backlash (two Vancouver school trustees worried about scaring off international students), there's been little American-style drama.

At the heart of these changes is a recognition of the unique prejudices and discrimination faced by the transgender community. The Obama administration is trying to tackle that by reinterpreting the U.S.'s existing sex-discrimination laws in a way that addresses gender-identity issues.

In Canada, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has decided a whole new bill is in order. Yesterday, he announced legislation to protect transgender Canadians from violence, hate speech and discrimination by adding “gender identity” as a protected category under the Canadian Human Rights Act. The legislations is expected to be tabled today to mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

It is a move whose importance cannot be overstated.

But treating people with respect and dignity shouldn't have to be legislated. It's common sense. So, too, are toilets everyone can use. It's not even a new idea. I had gender-neutral bathrooms in my elementary school classroom in the 1990s. I was a little girl.

And guess what, Ted Cruz? I was just fine.



Developers routinely challenge zoning rules. Why can't we?

HALIFAX MATTERS

Stephen Kimber



It's become acceptable — routine, really — for developers to apply to bend planning-strategy- and land-use regulations to greenlight projects that don't fit within the rules.

Should it not be just as possible for ordinary citizens to seek exceptions to red-light those who plan to do things that zoning laws legally permit but that are not in the public interest?

Let's consider two cases. First, there's the Robie-Quinpool-Parker block adjacent to the Willow Tree.

It's currently home to a 10-storey office building and four-storey above-ground parking garage, a former funeral home and some single-family housing, all of which comply with existing land-use by-laws.

Those properties are now owned by two major developers. They want city council to rewrite the rules so they can erect two massive highrise towers on the site.

Their plans not only fly in the face of neighbourhood height restrictions — one would be twice as tall as existing rules allow — but also don't comply with unit- and population-density regulations. Not to forget that local residents oppose them.

No matter. There's a process that lets developers apply to

city council to make exceptions to the rules whenever they feel the need.

There's no similar process for citizens.

Which brings us to Steele Honda, the car dealership that plans to bulldoze two dozen north-end residential properties around its Robie Street lot in order to make space for ... more car parking and vehicle-display-casing.

Really? Does replacing housing for people with parking for cars — especially on prime peninsular residential real estate — fit the city's long-term planning strategy? Is it in the public interest?

Most of us would probably say no, but the area is zoned commercial — based on bylaws passed nearly 40 years ago — so Steele has the right to do what it does. And the rest of us have no recourse.

I'm not advocating for councillors to rule individually on “every garage and façade change.” That would create, as Coun. Wayne Mason points out, “chaos. No one would know what they could ever build.”

But it's at least worth noting the power imbalance that exists between developers, who finance most councillors' election campaigns, and the rest of us, who merely vote.

Stephen Kimber is a professor of journalism at the University of King's College in Halifax and an award-winning writer, editor and broadcaster. Halifax matters runs every Monday.

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Codependency is not kindness

RELATIONSHIPS

Beware when selflessness becomes selfish and irritating

Katrina Clarke
Torstar News Service

One of the defining moments in Michael DeCorte's life came in 2003 after visiting a sick friend in the hospital.

"When I was at her bedside, I thought to myself, 'It's a good thing I'm here right now because I look like a good friend,'" he said, noting he valued this woman because she was cool and beautiful. "(Being there) secured the friendship."

The friend called bulls—t. He was there to make himself feel better, not her, she said.

DeCorte identifies as a recovering addict of "codependent friendships," a term describing relationships in which one person regularly performs acts intended to earn approval from others, validating their own self-worth and avoiding conflict. Experts say it's a learned emotional and behavioural condition, more common among women, that can impede people from forming balanced relationships, but is not necessarily unhealthy.

Comedian and actress Whitney Cummings put a spotlight on the issue in a December article for Elle magazine and newsletter-slash-website Lenny Letter, in which she self-identified as codependent.



SIGNS YOU MAY BE CODEPENDENT

Think you might be too reliant on your friends? Here are some red flags from Candace Plattor, an addiction therapist and author of *Loving an Addict, Loving Yourself: The Top 10 Survival Tips for Loving Someone with an Addiction*.

You're constantly giving in your friendships without getting much in return.

You often feel you're not as good as other people so you "play small" and make others' needs more important than your own.

You are extremely uncomfortable with confrontation; even when you feel disappointed, angry or resentful, you don't admit this to your friends because they might become upset or angry with you.

You attempt to convince yourself your problems are not that bad, rather than trying to change the dysfunctional dynamics in your friendships.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Michael DeCorte, left, identifies as a recovering addict of codependent friendships. He meets his friend Liam McElheron for yoga in Toronto. J.P. MOCZULSKI/ FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"Essentially, if I drive you to the airport because you can't afford a taxi and I expect nothing in return, that's benevolent," she writes. "But if I drive you to the airport secretly hoping you'll like me, owe me, won't abandon me down the line, or to control your perception of me (i.e., I want you to think I'm nice), that's codependent."

In the article, Cummings de-

tails prioritizing buying expensive candles for friends over paying rent, helping mend friends' broken hearts when she didn't have time to floss, and focusing so intently on helping sick family members, she once contracted pneumonia without noticing.

"There's nothing wrong with being kind," said Darlene Lancer, a California-based marriage and family therapist and author of *Co-*

dependency for Dummies. "But if you feel like you'd rather not say no ... then maybe it's a behaviour pattern, it's not coming from a place of conscious choice."

Lancer said examples of codependent friendships might include one friend often buying the other gifts without the gift-giving being reciprocated, regularly giving advice and feel-

ing angry when the advice isn't followed, or feeling too guilty to say no to requests. But it's not necessarily harmful.

"It doesn't always create unhappiness," said Lancer. "In some older generation (couples) ... the wife always does what her husband wants. She doesn't have much of a separate personality but it doesn't bother her because this is all she's known,

or it's part of their religious or cultural ethos."

In fact, Lancer calls codependency "rampant" in modern society, but says codependent relationships have long been around. As women became more independent and society shirks patriarchal norms, codependent relationships were deemed problematic, she said.

Lancer points to childhood incidents or trauma to explain how the behaviour is learned; bullying at school, parental discord — especially if one parent starts relying on the child for support — or sibling abuse can all contribute, she said.

So how do experts say one can unlearn codependency in friendships?

"Counselling," said Candace Plattor, an addiction therapist based in Vancouver, who considers codependency an addiction. People who suspect they have codependent tendencies need to reflect on what is causing their behaviour, she said.

As for Michael DeCorte, a recovering addict, he suspects when his addictions were rooted in insecurity and self-centeredness. Once he gave up drugs and alcohol 15 years ago, he latched on to the next best thing to feed his needs — friendships.

And that sick friend who called him out? She dumped him as a friend, disinvited him from her wedding and left him in shambles.

But once the dust settled, he regrouped. Through work with psychotherapists and mentors, he now realizes popular friends won't give him the self-confidence or validation he craved.



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Confronting the idiot inside us all

COGNITION

Neuroscientist comedian's book peers into our heads

Dean Burnett thinks you're an idiot. Well, at least, he thinks your brain is.

That's what the neuroscientist-comedian-turned-author reveals in his new book, *The Idiot Brain: A Neuroscientist Explains What Your Head is Really Up To* (Harper Collins: \$32.99).

All our brains tend to behave in bizarre ways. They have an ego. Time does really fly when the brain is having fun. And alcohol can sometimes improve memory.

You say you were kind of an odd-man-out in your family, the first to go to university. How did that shape your career?

That's what got me into the brain in the first place. I was thinking, "Why am I different than my nearest and dearest?" I haven't really found a good

answer, but I did pick up a lot of brain books along the way. It's worth asking questions about yourself, I suppose.

So you think the brain is not so complicated after all?

It's this reverence that people treat it with that is sort of unhelpful because it discourages people from trying to learn about it or think about it because it's sort of daunting.

We all have these idiot brains, as you're calling them, right?

The brain in general, yes, not specific people.

So it's not specific to idiots?

No (laughs). I've been accused of that. It's the brain as a thing, not someone's brain.

It's nice to hear someone rip the rug out from under the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, the psychological questionnaire adopted by a lot of businesses in the hiring process.

They like it because it makes people understandable. Myers-Briggs suggests you can put people into boxes, manage by numbers or calculations, and

they should behave in certain set patterns. Even if you do a Myers-Briggs test in an interview, people are smart enough to get around it. They ask you, "Are you a good team player?" Of course you say yes. There's not actually any science to it. It doesn't have any basis in what we could call scientific reality.

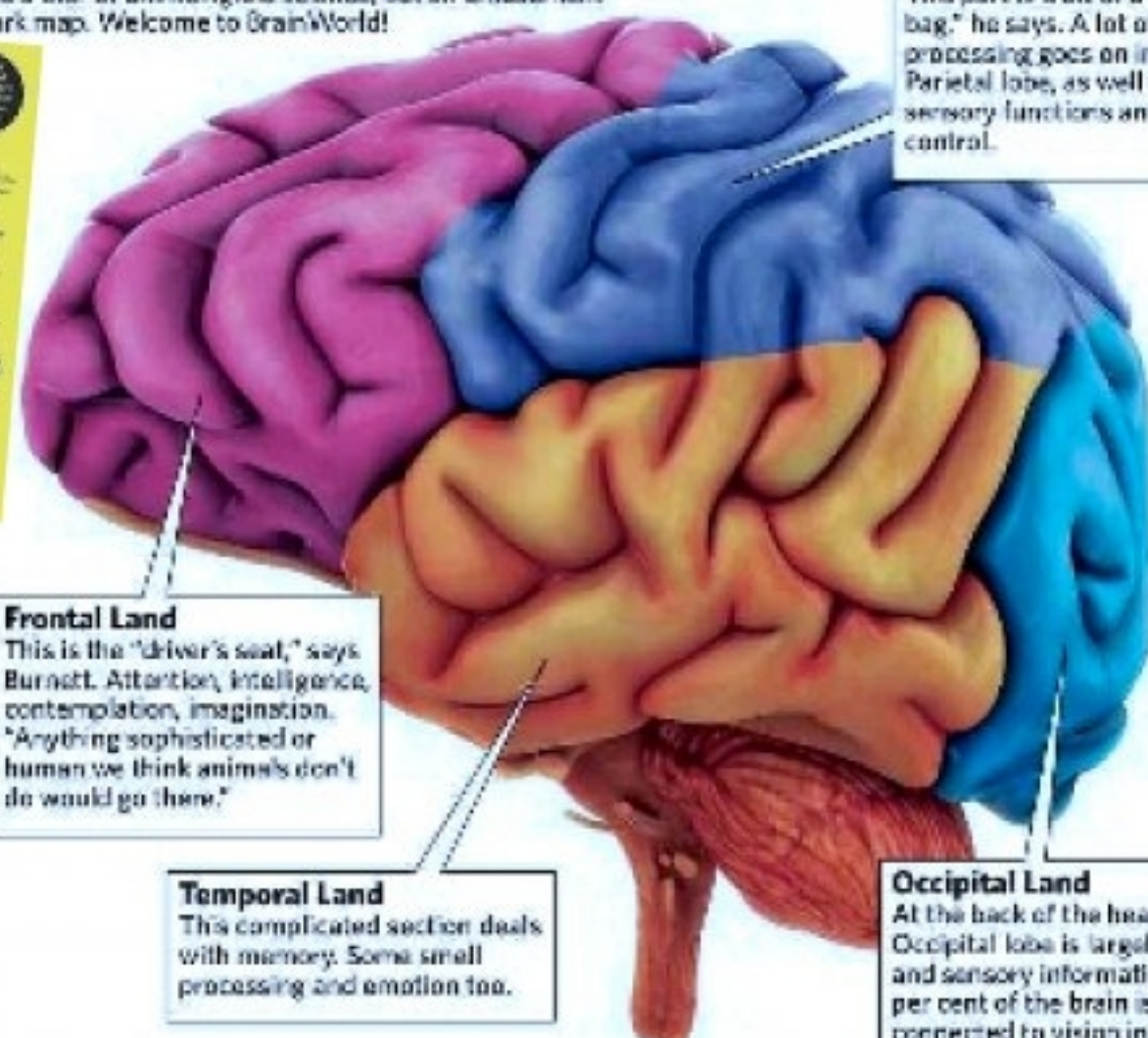
You tackle a lot in this book. What is possibly next? Will you stay with the "idiot brain?"

I'm sort of stuck with my own (laughs). No real plans or possibilities to change it. I'm looking into a second (book) with the publishers; lots of ideas being thrown around. Hopefully the next one I'll expand a certain area a bit more rather than just try to cover everything.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Welcome to BrainWorld

When Burnett looks at an image of the brain, he doesn't see a blur of unintelligible science, but an amusement park map. Welcome to BrainWorld!



Parietal Land

This part is a bit of a "mixed bag," he says. A lot of language processing goes on in the Parietal lobe, as well as some sensory functions and motor control.

Frontal Land

This is the "driver's seat," says Burnett. Attention, intelligence, contemplation, imagination. "Anything sophisticated or human we think animals don't do would go there."

Temporal Land

This complicated section deals with memory. Some small processing and emotion too.

Occipital Land

At the back of the head, the Occipital lobe is largely vision and sensory information. Sixty per cent of the brain is connected to vision in some way, says Burnett.

SOURCE: DAVID YARD

ILLUSTRATION: DAVID YARD

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

+ BRAIN GAME

Our brains are alcohol-dependent, narcissistic and adrenaline-addicted smart alecks that like to play games on us. These are just a few of the idiotic traits Burnett lays out in *The Idiot Brain*.

Egotistical

Do you remember doing better in that foot race or job interview than you actually did in reality? It might be your brain trying to motivate you.

Drinkers

You might remember some-

thing more easily when "you are as drunk as you were when you first made that memory." Drink responsibly.

Smart alecks

Being smart can be a burden in the brain. More intelligent people are often aware of how little they know and sometimes lack confidence.

Time flies

Time does seem to fly when



you're engaged in what's going on around you and aren't paying attention to the passage of time. "If you're somewhere boring like a doctor's waiting room, there's a lot less stimulation going on. That occupies more of your brain space."

The seventh sense

Forget the sixth sense — what about a seventh, eighth or ninth? There are actually many secondary senses processed in the brain to detect the outside world.

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METRO IS A PROUD SUPPORTER OF ADOPT AN ANIMAL WITH THE SPCA

The Los Angeles Angels are reportedly close to signing Tim Lincecum, a two-time Cy Young winner trying to come back from hip surgery

No rest for the weary

RAPTORS EAST FINAL PREVIEW

Fresh Cleveland team awaits battered Toronto club

It was a seven-game drag 'em out series that featured a slew of injuries and had coach Dwane Casey comparing it to a boxing match.

And now, just two days after finally knocking out the Miami Heat in a gruelling NBA Eastern Conference semifinal, the Toronto Raptors take the court against the well-rested Cavaliers.

The Raptors tip off their first-ever conference final on Tuesday in Cleveland, against a Cavs team that has enjoyed a nine-day break.

"You always take rest over rust in the playoffs," Casey said. "I've never been with a team that's had nine days off. Hopefully they're a little rusty and game-rusty. But sooner or later, that rest is going to kick in and be a plus for them."

"We have to go in with our guns a-blazing, playing hard and playing to our identity, and let the chips fall where they may."

The Raptors went the full seven games in each of the first two rounds of the playoffs, capped by their thrilling 116-89 victory over Miami on Sunday.

Top-ranked Cleveland has



Raptors forward Patrick Patterson defends against Cavaliers point guard Kyrie Irving on Feb. 26. The Raptors won two of three games against the Cavs this season. CLAUS ANDERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

yet to lose in the post-season, sweeping Detroit and then Atlanta.

The Raptors have recent history on their side. They won the regular-season series against the Cavs 2-1, and saw big games from Kyle Lowry. Toronto's scrappy point guard averaged 31 points on 66 per cent shooting, and had the highest player efficiency rating of anyone who played at least 10 min-

utes a game against the Cleveland in the regular season.

But the post-season has been costly. Toronto lost starting centre Jonas Valanciunas to a badly sprained ankle in Game 3 against



77

The Cavs hit 77 threes in their four-game sweep of Atlanta. The Raptors, on the other hand, were second last in defending the three in the regular season.

J.R. Smith THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miami. Casey confirmed he won't play in Game 1 and is unlikely to return for Game 2.

The Lithuanian big man is still limping badly, making it tough to see him returning at all in this series.

"I'd like to see (Valanciunas return). I'm not committing to it," Casey said. "Just have to see how his body reacts, comes through rehab. To cancel him out for the entire series, I don't know."

Without the starting centre's post-up presence, the Raptors will have their hands full with Canadian Tristan Thompson and Timofey Mozgov.

DeMar DeRozan is also battling a thumb injury that requires wrapping during every timeout to relieve the swelling by the team's sport science guru Alex McKechnie and his famous red shoelace.

DeMarre Carroll, who was acquired last summer for his defensive intensity, was huge in containing Dwyane Wade and Joe Johnson in Toronto's do-or-die Game 7. But he faces a mammoth task in containing Cavs star LeBron James. He also missed more than half the season with a knee injury, and then sprained a wrist in Game 5 against Miami.

"He's still kind of feeling his way as we go offensively, but his hustle, his hard play, his timely three-point shots are a big part of what we need and why we signed him," Casey said. "He's exactly what we need at that position, to guard some of the power threes in this league." THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Jays' skip upset with timing of plunking

It's not the retribution that bothers John Gibbons, it's the timing.

The Blue Jays manager addressed media on Monday afternoon, a day after Toronto all-star right-fielder Jose Bautista was hit in the ribs by a pitch from Texas reliever Matt Bush and then punched in the face by Rangers second baseman Rougned Odor after a hard slide on the basepaths.

Bush's throw was apparently in retribution for Bautista's dramatic bat flip after a home run in Game 5 of the American League Division Series last season. The two teams had played in two three-game series this season before Sunday's bench-clearing brawl.

“

I think everyone in here did what they think is right to protect our guy.

Blue Jays centre-fielder Kevin Pillar

"It didn't happen what, the first six games?" said Gibbons in his office ahead of Monday's game with the Tampa Bay Rays. "My only complaint was that if you've got an issue with someone, we get that, everyone views things differently, and if you're going to do something, hey, that's part of it, we get it."

"But I figured you might do it right away. Then you've got six more games for things to play out the way they're going to play out."

Instead, the Rangers and Blue Jays won't play again this year, unless they meet in the post-season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WORLD HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Canada flawless through six games

Canada downed France 4-0 Monday at the world hockey championship, setting up a winner-take-all matchup with Finland for first place in Group B.

Calvin Pickard made 13 saves to pick up a shutout as Canada improved its record to 6-0, tied for first place in the group with the Finns at 18 points.

Canada and Finland meet Tuesday in the final round-robin game for both teams. The winner will face the fourth-place team from Group A in the quarter-

Preliminary round



ter-finals.

In Group A action, host Russia recorded its fifth straight victory with a 3-0 win over Norway to move into a tie with the Czech team for first place with 15 points. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Woods 'progressing nicely'

Tiger Woods says he's "progressing nicely" in his return from two surgeries on his back but he's still not sure when he'll return to competitive golf.

"If I knew, I'd tell you, because it'd be fun to know," said Woods, 40, who last played in August.

On Monday, Woods took on ceremonial duties for his upcoming Quicken Loans National and found the water on each of his three tee shots on the par-3 10th hole. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Towns unanimously voted rookie of year

Minnesota Timberwolves centre Karl-Anthony Towns is the unanimous winner of the NBA Rookie of the Year award.

The league made the announcement Monday, giving the Wolves back-to-back honorees after forward Andrew Wiggins won the Eddie Gottlieb Trophy last season. The seven-foot Towns received all 130 first-place votes from a panel of sports writers and broadcasters in the United States and Canada.

New York's Kristaps Porz-



Karl-Anthony Towns GETTY IMAGES

Timberwolves win 13 more games than the season before. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ingis finished second, and Denver's Nikola Jokic was third.

The 20-year-old Towns averaged 18.1 points, 10.7 rebounds and 1.7 blocks, helping the



Adrian Beltre holds Jose Bautista back during Sunday's dustup. GETTY IMAGES

RECIPE Turkey and Sweet Potato Skillet Dinner



PHOTO: MAYA VISNIEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

The marriage of savoury turkey and sweet potato is definitely charmed but it's the topping of gooey mozzarella that makes this easy dinner perfect.

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes

Ingredients

- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 lb ground turkey
- 1 onion, diced
- 3 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 1/2 Tbsp chili powder
- 1 1/2 cups yellow pepper, diced
- 1 1/2 cups sweet potato, peeled and diced
- salt and pepper
- 1/2 cup mozzarella, grated

Directions

1. In a large, oven-safe skillet,

brown your turkey over medium heat, breaking it up as you heat it. Cook for about 5 minutes. Add onions and garlic and cook for another 5 minutes. Sprinkle the chili powder over top and give it all a good stir.

2. Add the yellow pepper and allow to soften for another 3 minutes. Stir in sweet potatoes, cover and cook for about 10 minutes. Stir occasionally and add a bit of water if things dry out. Check to see that sweet potatoes are tender. Add salt and pepper to taste.

3. Sprinkle the grated cheese over top. Turn broiler on. Place the skillet under the heat for a minute or two — watch it! — until the cheese melts and just starts to brown. Remove carefully from the oven and serve.

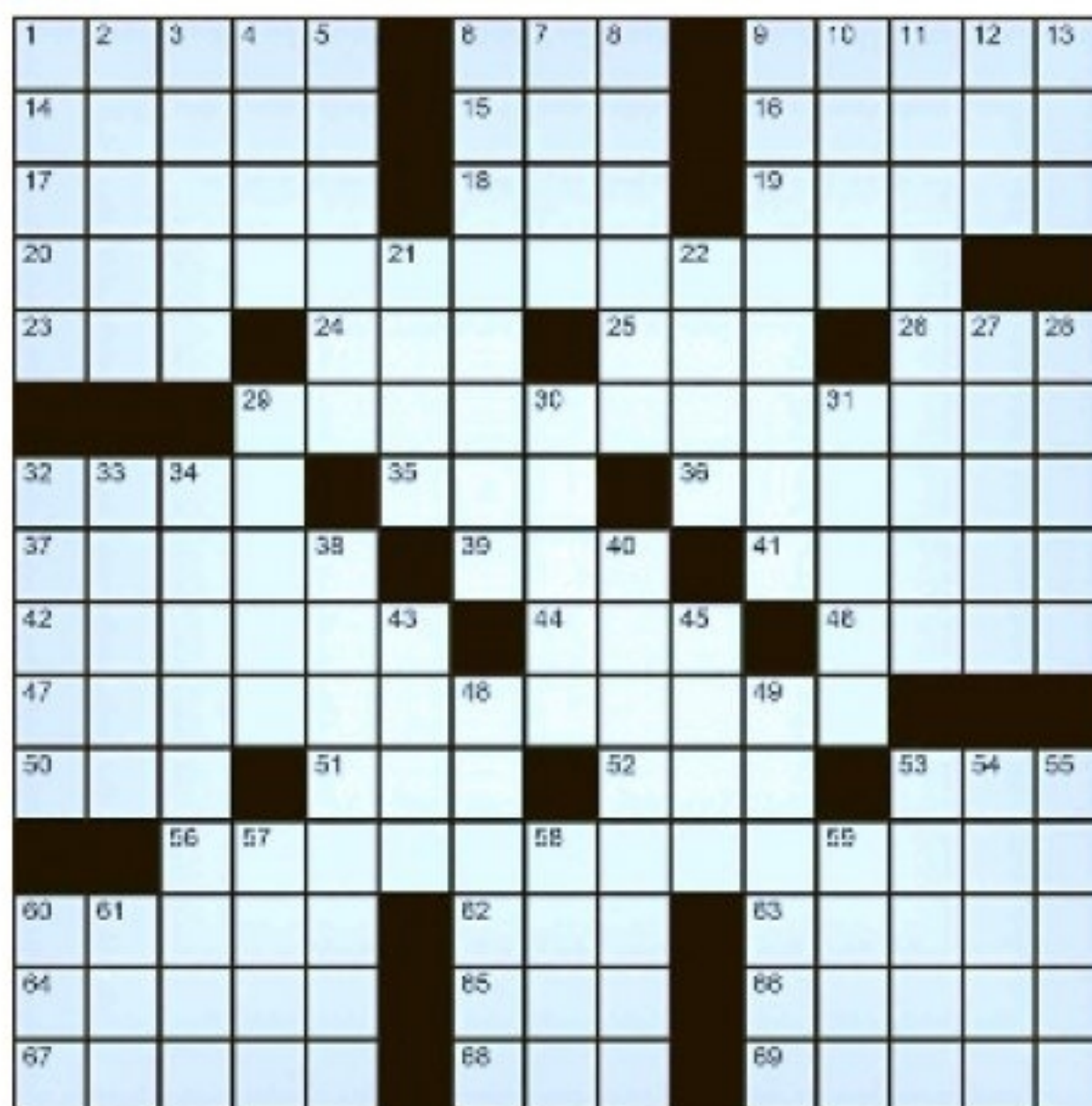
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1. Mr. Chipmunk of novelty tunes
6. Towel holder
9. ___ the toy, as a kitten
14. Songstress Ms. Lewis
15. Prefix with 'dermis'
16. Figure of speech
17. Cordiality
18. Blokes
19. Skincare brand
20. She stars as Jason Priestley's character's wife on new Family Channel comedy "Raising Expectations": 2 wds.
23. ___ break
24. Latin: At the age of [abbr.]
25. Prince William's l'il brother
26. Tip to 'doo'
29. 1986 movie starring the actress at #20-Across: 3 wds.
32. Italian actress, Virna ___
35. "Phooey!"
36. Gas tank filler
37. Music: Speed up gradually, briefly
39. "___ & the Women" (2000)
41. Mediterranean island
42. "Hero" singer Ms. Carey
44. Poet mr. cummings, et al.
46. Prezzy
47. "Beverly Hills, 90210" character played by the Vancouver-born star at #20-Across: 2 wds.
50. School yr. part



51. Caesar's 56
52. "Lady Marmalade" co-singer
53. French 'friend'
56. The actress at #20-Across served detention in this 1985 hit flick, with The: 2 wds.
60. Los Angeles, ___

62. Traditional tree
63. Presses
64. Guitarist, Lenny ___ (b.1941 - d.1984)
65. Alkali
66. "Open ___" (2003) directed by Kevin Costner
67. Certain car-peting

68. Ireland's ___
69. Prod: 2 wds.

DOWN

1. Western starring Canadian actor Glenn Ford, "The Man from the ___" (1953)
2. Fruit wedge

3. "Prestol"
4. Airport designation, e.g.
5. "The Big Bang Theory" star Kunal
6. Paid
7. Receptive
8. Small inflatable boat
9. 19th-century cir-

cus legend: initials + surname
10. Botanical casing
11. Kawartha Lakes community in Ontario
12. Pre-May mo.
13. Jeans top
21. Coral formation
22. Oliver Twist, for one
27. Two down, ___ go...
28. Gumbo ingredients
29. ___ the face (Slapstick maneuver)
30. Flung
31. Fuzzy fruit
32. Clarice Starling's flock
33. "Why should ___?"
34. Jumbles
38. Soup serving amount
40. Preparer of Orange Pekoe: 2 wds.
43. Jay Z's "Izzo (___)"
45. Mr. Stallone, et al.
48. Electrical pioneer Mr. Tesla
49. Form of comedy
53. Sing-___
54. "In the Summer-time" by ___ Jerry
55. A Doll's House dramatist
57. US music trade org.
58. Ms. Dunaway
59. Rugged cliff
60. "Survivor" station
61. Mr. Onassis, tiny-ly

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
This is a day for serious, practical discussions with partners, spouses and close friends. People want to strategize how things should be done in the future.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You will accomplish a lot at work today because you're motivated. It's easy to put duty and obligations before play and fun.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Romantic partners might discuss the division of labour or how to share expenses. This is because you are in a practical frame of mind and ready to address these issues.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Someone older, perhaps a family member, might have practical advice for you today. Why not stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before you?

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Whatever work you do today, you will do carefully with attention to detail. This is because you want things to be more orderly in your life. Too much helter-skelter is draining!

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
With cash flow, you will be practical today. You will not buy frivolous items. Whatever you buy will be long-lasting and useful — for sure.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Today the Moon is in your sign, dancing with Saturn. This makes duty, orderliness and hard work a priority. (Work hard, party hard!)

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Research of any kind will go well today because you have the motivation to go after what you're looking for. You will pay attention to detail and maintain a steady focus.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Ask advice from someone older, perhaps a friend. Whatever this person says might affect your attitude toward your future goals.

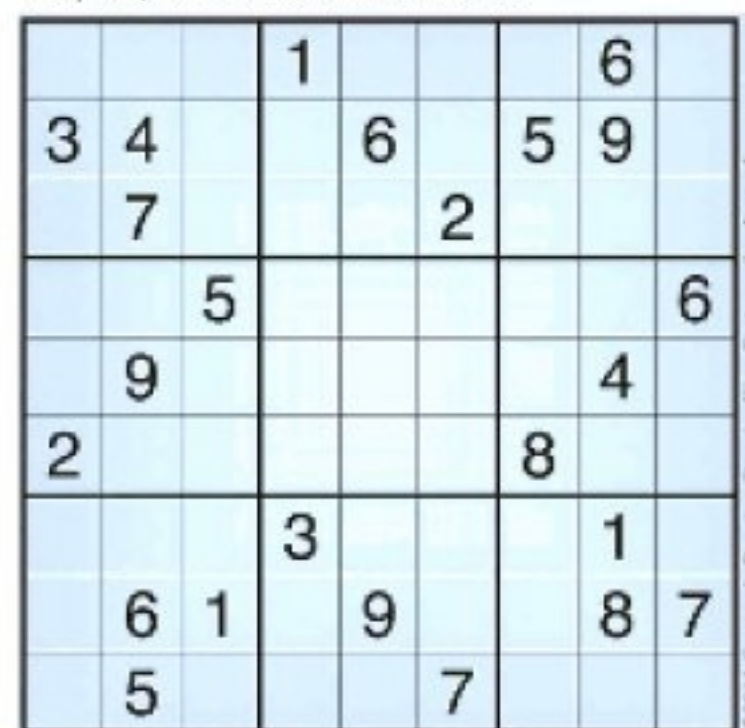
Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
A discussion with a boss, parent or someone in a position of authority will go well today because you will respect what he or she has to say.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is a good day to make travel plans or plans for future education. Work related to publishing, the media, medicine and the law will be productive because you mean business.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Tie up loose ends about taxes, debt, insurance issues and inheritance today, because you have the frame of mind to do this. You won't overlook details.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



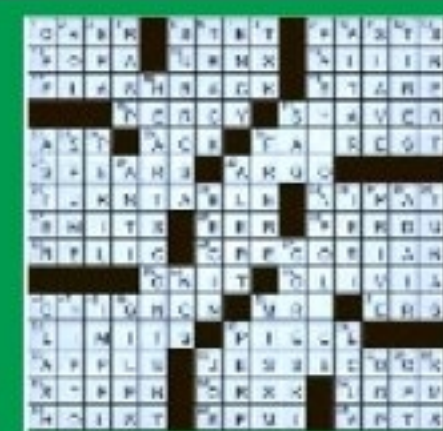
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